

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06717 170750Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 170630Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9276

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

S E C R E T JIDDA 6717

EXDIS

DEPT PASS: DOD/ISA FOR ELLSWORTH AND NOYES; JCS FOR GENERAL
ELDER; DSAA FOR GENERAL FISH; USMTM DHAHRAN FOR
GENERAL HILL

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, BA

SUBJ: US-SAUDI JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION: SAUDI ASSISTANCE TO
BAHRAIN ARMED FORCES

1. DURING NOV 10-12 MEETINGS IN RIYADH OF THE US-SAUDI JOINT
SECURITY COMMISSION, MIN DEF AND AVIATION PRINCE SULTAN RE-
SPONDED TO PORTION OF US SECURITY BRIEFING ON SITUATION IN
BAHRAIN (REPORTED SEPTTEL) BY TALKING OF SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO
COOPERATE IN MODERNIZING BAHRAIN'S ARMED FORCES.

2. SULTAN SAID THAT THE PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD BEEN IN DHAHRAN
AND MET WITH SHAYKH KHALID, THE CROWN PRINCE OF BAHRAIN.
WHILE TALKING WITH SHAYKH KHALID, SULTAN HAD RECEIVED TELE-
PHONE CALL FROM DEP MIN DEF PRINCE TURKI WHO WAS THEN IN RIYADH
AND HAD BEEN HEADING THE SAUDI SIDE IN THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION. THE BAHRAIN CROWN PRINCE ON HEAR-
ING THIS HAD URGED PRINCE SULTAN TO ASK THE USG TO BE MORE
FORTHCOMING IN DEALING WITH BAHRAIN'S ARMS REQUESTS. SULTAN
SAID THAT HE WAS NOT YET WELL INFORMED OF BAHRAIN'S REQUESTS
BUT BELIEVED IT CONCERNED SOME PATROL BOATS AND THE TOW
MISSILES BECAUSE WHILE HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE USG THAT THERE
WAS A VERY LONG LEAD TIME IN THE TOW MISSILES, HE HAD HEARD
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ELSEWHERE THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER MISSILE MADE BY A US FIRM

(SULTAN COULDN'T RECALL THE NAME) WHICH COULD BE HAD IN THREE MONTHS.

3. SULTAN SAID THAT SOME TIME AGO SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN GIVEN A COPY OF A PLAN FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF BAHRAIN'S ARMED FORCES. THE SAG EXPERTS WHO EXAMINED IT, HE SAID, HAD FOUND IT FAR TOO AMBITIOUS AND HAD SENT IT BACK TO THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT WITH A NUMBER OF COMMENTS. SULTAN SAID THAT THE BAHRAINIS HAD AGREED WITH THE SAUDI COMMENTS AND WERE NOW DRAWING UP A NEW, MORE MODEST PLAN. WHEN THE NEW PLAN IS RECEIVED SULTAN SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD BE PREPARED COOPERATE IN ITS EXECUTION. HE FELT BAHRAINI NEEDS WOULD BE QUITE SIMPLE: SOME BOATS AND BATTERIES OF ROCKETS. SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE COST OF THESE ITEMS. SULTAN SAID HE HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.
AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

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